

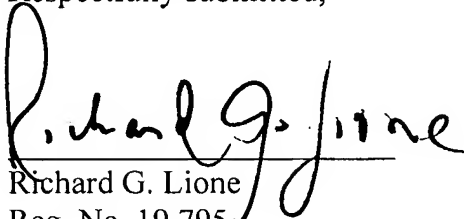
REMARKS

The Office Action of November 1, 2007, has been carefully studied. The Examiner has indicated that Claim 2 and 8-14 contain allowable subject matter. Meanwhile, Claims 1, 3-7 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Nakayama et al. and Kodera et al.

Claim 1 has now been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent Claim 2. As such, amended Claim 1 should be in allowable form (Claim 2 has been cancelled). Claim 3-14 now depend from amended Claim 1 and, as such, should also be also allowable. New Claim 16 depends from Claim 1 and, for the same reasons as Claims 3-14, should also be allowable.

All pending Claims (1, 3-14 and 16) presently being in allowable condition, passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard G. Lione", written over a horizontal line.

Richard G. Lione
Reg. No. 19,795
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, Illinois 60610
(312) 321-4200